



Mansfield Downtown Partnership Honored by CT Main Street Center *Winner of 2016 Award of Excellence*

May 2, 2016 – The Mansfield Downtown Partnership is pleased to announce that the CT Main Street Center has named the Mansfield Downtown Partnership as the winner of the 2016 Award of Excellence in Public Space.

The Partnership, along with the Town of Mansfield, UConn, Storrs Center master developer LeylandAlliance, and landscape architecture firm Kent + Frost, will be honored for its work on creating the Mansfield Town Square.

The Mansfield Town Square was developed and constructed as part of Storrs Center, a mixed-use development featuring a variety of residences, retail, office, and restaurant spaces. Since the project's inception, the Town Square has been included as a focal point to the development, providing the Mansfield community with a much-needed public space for everything from casual encounters with neighbors to large community events.

Since the Mansfield Town Square was completed in May 2015, the space has hosted a wide range of activities, including free summer concerts; the Town Square Puppet Fair, part of the National Puppetry Festival; Mansfield Pup Crawl, an organized dog walk to benefit the Town's animal shelter; Trick-or-Treating, which included performances by the E. O. Smith Drum Corps and Mansfield Academy of Dance; Storrs Center Stroll, a family event with UConn Alumni; Winter Welcome, a community event celebrating the start of the winter season; and the Partnership's annual Celebrate Mansfield Festival.

As Governor Dannel P. Malloy commented upon the announcement of this year's Awards of Excellence recipients, "There can be no doubt that Connecticut's downtowns play a strong role in maintaining Connecticut's quality of life," said Governor Dannel P. Malloy. "Not only are they economic drivers with their dense array of shops, restaurants and businesses, but their cultural offerings, walkable streets, and modern housing contribute to a vibrant state. I congratulate this year's winners for continuing the tradition of downtown being the epicenter of ingenuity, opportunity and public discourse."

"We are thrilled to be the recipient of the 2016 Award of Excellence for Public Space," said Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. "Creating this wonderful place was truly a collaborative process with our many partners. We look forward to the Town Square's continued use as the center of life downtown."

The Partnership has also been selected to host the CT Main Street Center's Annual Awards Gala on Monday, June 6. The event will begin with an awards presentation at E. O. Smith High School followed by interactive experiences in Storrs Center. Activities will include guided tours of the downtown development, a collaboration with the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, time for dinner and exploration among the Center's many shops and restaurants, and a closing concert featuring the Funky Dawgz Brass Band.

For more information about the CT Main Street Center's Annual Gala, please visit their website, ctmainstreet.org.

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The Mansfield Downtown Partnership is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization created by the Town of Mansfield and the University of Connecticut in 2001. The Partnership seeks to foster the continued development, management, and promotion of downtown Storrs – a vibrant and economically successful community in the heart of Mansfield.

Learn more about the Mansfield Downtown Partnership: mansfieldct.org/mdp